

# Nail Everything Down



COMMONWEALTH  
OF MASSACHUSETTS  
Office Of Consumer Affairs  
and Business Regulation

## About the Law

The Home Improvement Contractor Law (M.G.L.c142A) established a registration requirement, an arbitration program and the Guaranty Fund for transactions between homeowners and registered contractors.

If you are planning on hiring a contractor...You need to read this.

## Before You Start

### Home Improvement CHECKLIST

- ✓ Insist on a written, detailed contract.
- ✓ Make sure the contractor named in the contract is currently registered with the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards. **Contact BBRS directly at (617) 727-3200**
- ✓ Check out your contractor's references and complaint history. You can do that by going to **[www.mass.gov/consumer](http://www.mass.gov/consumer)**
- ✓ Make sure your contracting job is covered under your contractor's insurance.
- ✓ Make sure your contractor, not you, applies for and obtains the building permit.
- ✓ Pay no more than one-third of the contract cost up front, unless special-order materials are needed.

For more information about the Home Improvement Contractor Law, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at (617) 973-8787 or Toll Free (888) 283-3757 or visit our web site at **[www.Mass.Gov/consumer](http://www.Mass.Gov/consumer)**.